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(1) The examination will be offered to individuals, to classes or to entire schools.

(2) It will be arranged for at least three different grades of students, and thus be adapted to the needs of all the members of a school (above ten or twelve years of age).

(3) It will cover in a general way the points above indicated, viz., the details of the life and work of Jesus, the times in which Jesus lived, the methods and purpose of the work of Jesus, the literary form of the Gospel of Luke.

(4) The examination will be written; the papers will be read by instructors appointed by the Institute; to those who pass the examination there will be given *Institute certificates* to that effect.

(5) Information concerning the manner of conducting the examination, and specimens of examination-papers will be sent upon application to the Principal of Schools of the Institute of Sacred Literature, New Haven, Conn.

Is not the plan worthy of consideration as one which, perhaps, may add greatly to the efficiency of the work done upon the subject during the coming year?

General Notes and Notices.

The newly appointed Laudian professor of Arabic at Oxford, Dr. D. S. Margouliouth, in his inaugural lecture which discusses the Book of Ecclesiasticus, has endeavored to prove that the book was originally composed in Neo-hebrew and had a metrical form.

The second volume of the new edition of the Records of the Past is ready for publication. Professor Sayce, the editor, spends the winter in Egypt where last year he so narrowly escaped death from a serpent's bite.

Among the courses of lectures which are being delivered or announced for delivery are two of special interest. Mr. G. Bertin is giving a course at the British Museum on the Religion of Babylonia, illustrated by the material in the Museum. A series of lectures on the Asaph Psalms (Psalms 50, 73-83) is announced by Dr. King the Hulsean lecturer at Cambridge. He will consider these psalms with reference to certain ideas which are met with in the early religion of Babylonia.

Rev. H. G. Tompkins, the oriental scholar, lately discussed the present state of knowledge regarding the dynasty of the Hyksos kings in Egypt. The same period has been recently considered by Dr. Krall in a pamphlet on the Egyptian name of Joseph. This name he professes to find in the Egyptian Ze (d)-month-ef-onkh and declares that the monuments show other instances of

the giving of such names to Semitic foreigners. Other interesting discoveries are illustrations of the transferring of property to the government in default of taxes as well as the persons of the owners. He concludes that the fiscal system of the Egyptian imperial government was organized during the Hyksos age. How many interesting conjectures concerning Joseph's relation to all this can be reasonably entertained!

The researches of Dr. Edward Glaser, the explorer in Arabia, are of the profoundest interest to oriental and biblical scholars. It has been generally supposed that Arabia's history began with the rise of Mohammedanism. But the inscriptions discovered and brought back by Glaser show that this is far from being true. In the age of David a high culture prevailed in southern Arabia. The Minean kingdom preceded the Sabæan and the latter was already flourishing in the eighth century so that we are enabled to trace back the history of these hitherto little known peoples to very early times and find evidences of vigorous and advanced civilization. An article relating to Glaser and his explorations written by Prof. Hommel, may be found in *Hebraica*, Oct. 1889. Thus the incidental notices of these peoples in the Old Testament are corroborated from an unexpected quarter.

Following the lamented death of Dr. Alfred Edersheim of Oxford, author of "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah," which is perhaps the best life of Christ from the point of view of Jewish life and thought, England has lost two other able and influential biblical scholars. Dr. Edwin Hatch, reader in Ecclesiastical History, formerly Grinfield lecturer on the Septuagint, died Nov. 10, 1889. He was a student of the institutions of the early church and wrote some exceedingly valuable works on that subject. He was the Bampton lecturer for 1888 and his lectures on the "Origin and Growth of Religion as illustrated by the Greek influence on Christianity" are in type. As a student of the Septuagint he was producing increasingly valuable work. His "Essays on Biblical Greek" recently published were the substance of his academic lectures. He has left, unfortunately incomplete, a concordance to the Septuagint, which, it is hoped, can be completed and published by competent and friendly scholars. The other scholar is the Rev. W. Gray Elmslie, D. D., Professor of Hebrew in the London Presbyterian College, who died Nov. 16, 1889 at the age of forty-one. He was a pupil of Prof. Davidson of Edinburgh and was himself a brilliant scholar and successful teacher. He was also very highly regarded as a preacher and lecturer on biblical topics. His assistance was liberally given to the work in Hebrew by correspondence which was introduced into England by the London Sunday School Union. A liberal and scholarly interpreter of the Old Testament, his loss is deeply felt by all who are seeking to introduce and extend popular and scientific study of the Bible on both sides of the Atlantic.